



THE

KNIGHT



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NEW EVIDENCE ON THE ORIGINS OF THE KAPA

By ALEKSANDRAS RADZIUS

Recent finds in old Riazan contribute information with regard to the origin and distribution of the long-kapa as a medium of exchange. Old Riazan is no more than 150 miles south-east of Moscow on the banks of the Oka River, fifty miles from modern Riazan. The recent finds indicate that as late as 1237, the long-kapa was not an established medium of exchange in Suzdal-Vladimir-Moscow region.

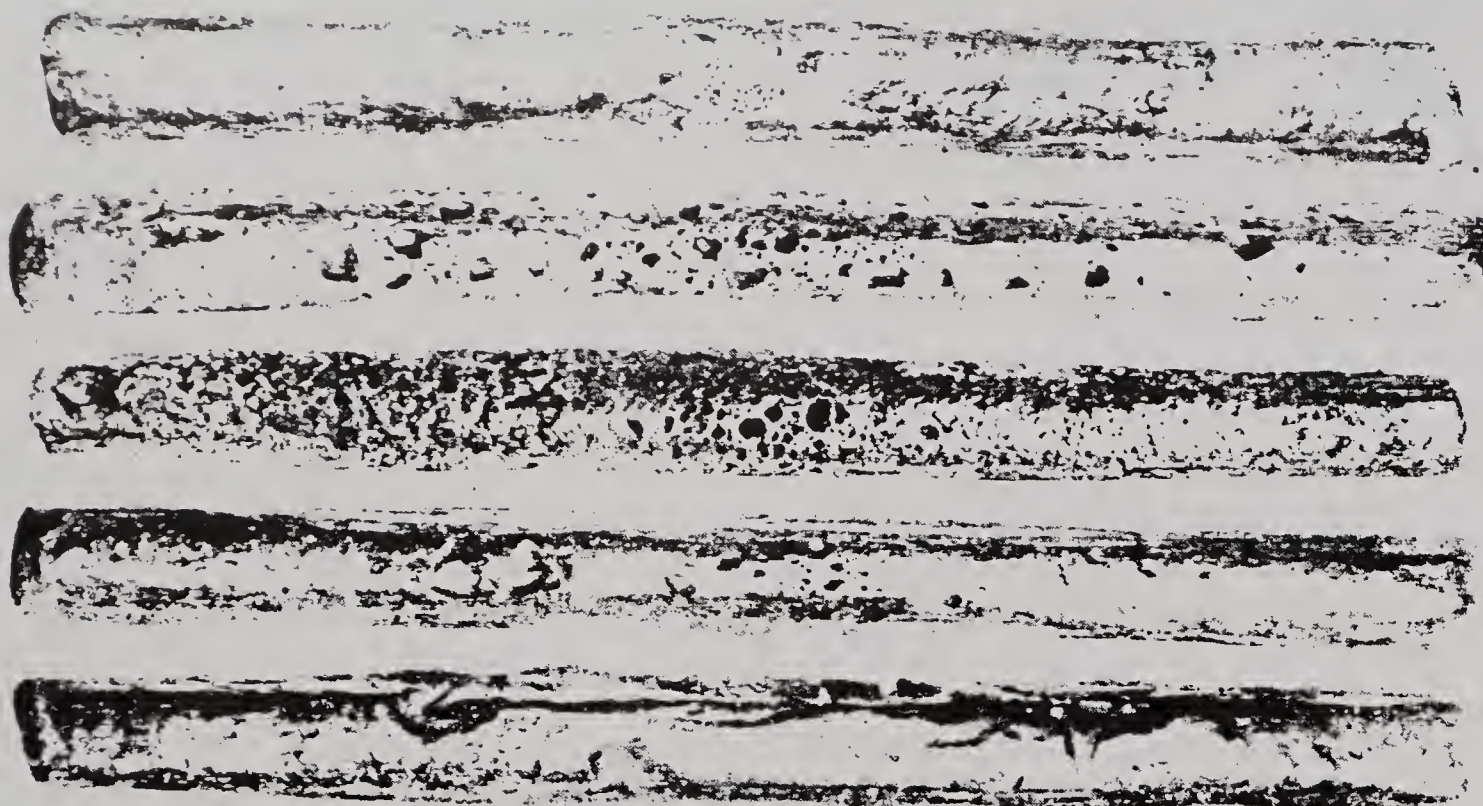
In 1237, Mongols under Khan Batu laid siege to old Riazan. In nine days, they surrounded it with a wooded palisade, which not only sealed the city, but also gave cover to the Tartar archers and artillery and offered a barrier against a relieving army. An artillery bombardment with stones followed for five days. On the sixth day the Tartars stormed and took the city three days before Christmas, looting, set it on fire, and killed all of the inhabitants. The treasures hurriedly buried by the inhabitants of old Riazan first began to be unearthed in 1822. However, from 1968 to 1973 major finds were discovered. Of particular interest are five long-kapa found with a quantity of silver jewelry. All of the long-kapa are semi-circular in cross-section. Other physical characteristics of each of the long-kapa are:

- (a) 16 cm long, 213 grams weight, flat side has 6 parallel grooves.
- (b) 16 cm long, 194.2 grams weight, flat side is marked (?).
- (c) 16 cm long, 202.5 grams weight.
- (d) 15.4 cms long, 209 grams weight, flat side has 4 slanting grooves.
- (e) 18.8 cms long, 211.5 grams weight, flat side has 5 slanting grooves.

These long-kapa, which were cast locally at Riazan, and are of interest because they are porous and defective on the semi-circular bottoms indicating a very careless casting technology. Anyone familiar with metal casting will easily recognize that the defects seen are a result of insufficient flux added to the molten silver and from not cleaning the molds between castings.

The defects can not be attribute to ignorance of silver smithing as fine silver jewelry, also of local manufacture, found with the long-kapa are flawless and exquisitely executed. The careless casting of the long-kapa must indicate that to the early 13th century Russians of Riazan in particular, and the Suzdal-Vladimir-Moscow region in general, the kapa must not have been an important medium of exchange. In contrast, during the 1200's, Lithuanians were already purchasing castles and ransoming their dukes from the Livonian Order with quantities of kapa. It would appear that barter was still the primary means of exchange in the Suzdal-Vladimir-Moscow region of Russia during the early 1200's.

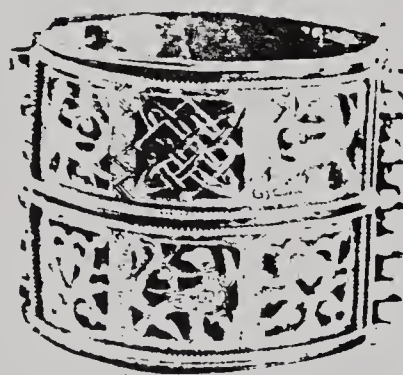
The 1968-1973 finds at old Riazan contribute evidence that the kapa, as medium of exchange, came to the Moscow region from the shores of the Baltic Sea and not vice-versa.



The five long-kapa found at Riazan. The defective bottoms are easily seen.



5.2 cm diameter



7 cm diameter
6.6 cm high
0.1 cm wall thickness

Two of the many exquisite silver jewelry of local manufacture also found at Riazan.

Sources:

Darkevich, V.P. and Mongait, A.L. The Treasure of Staraya Ryzan. The Academy of Sciences USSR. The Institute of Archaeology. Moscow, USSR. 1978.

Pašuta, V. Lietuvos valstybės susidarymas. Vilnius, Lithuania. 1971.

-- The New Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th Edition.

1988 SAJŪDIS MEDAL

As the Republic of Lithuania strives for freedom from the Soviet Empire, we are reminded of the Lithuanian patriots who have worked over the past few years to help make independence a reality someday. The Lithuanian Reform Movement, SAJUDIS, was in the forefront in the drive for independence.

This month we are featuring the SAJUDIS medal, issued in 1988. It is bronze, and measures 35 mm. in diameter.

Obverse: Shown is the national emblem of the Republic of Lithuania, Vytis, and the date, 1988.

Reverse: In the center is the Columns of Gediminas emblem. The text, "LIETUVOS PERSITVARKYMO SAJUDIS" translates, "Lithuanian Reform Movement." Fine denticles surround the perimeter of the medal on both sides.

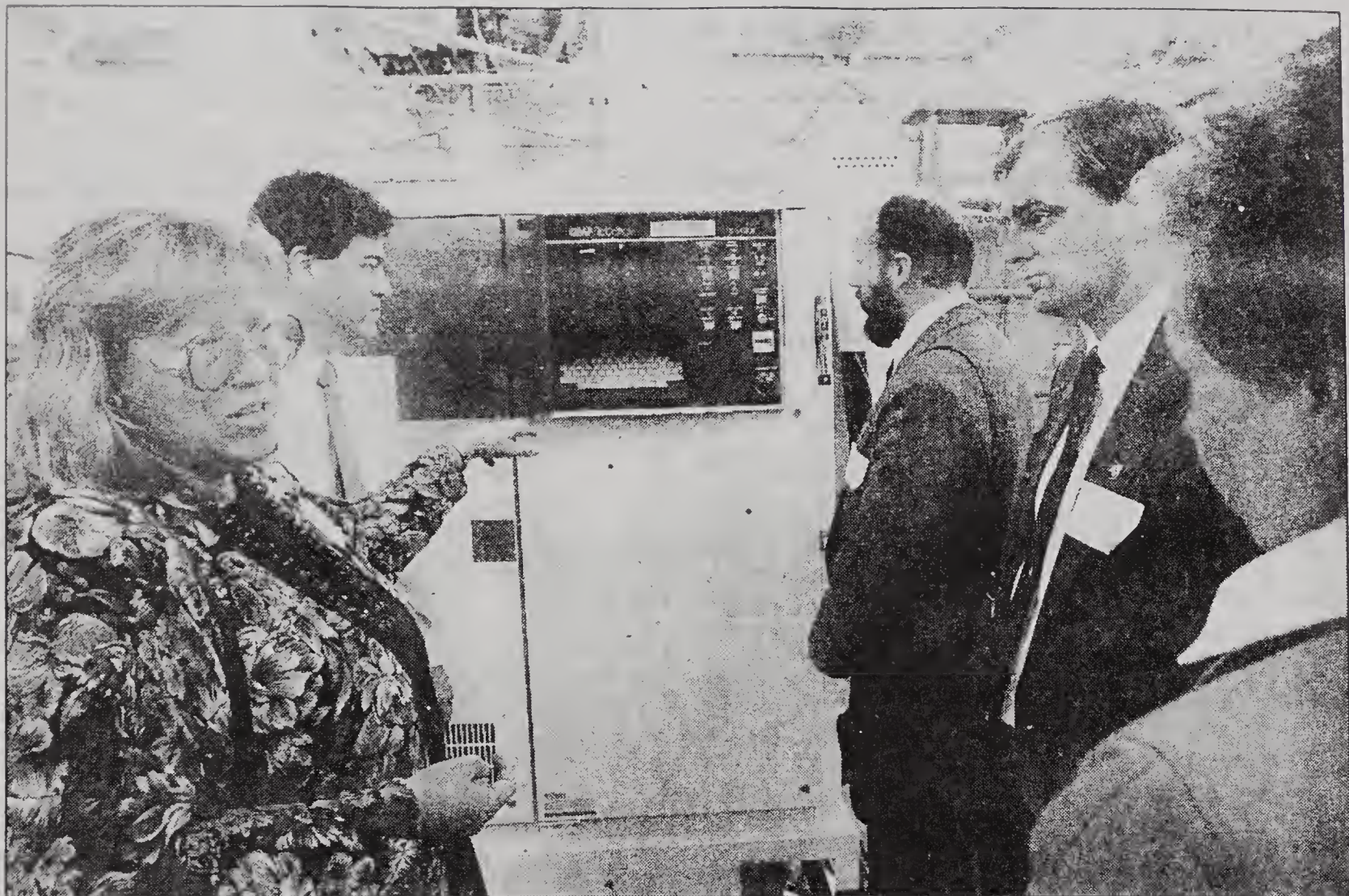
The example illustrated here is in the collection of the Balzekas Museum in Chicago. We have no other information as to mintage statistics. But this medal is a cherished memento, indeed, of the Lithuanian drive for independence.



BACK ISSUES OF THE KNIGHT AVAILABLE

We have had numerous requests for back issues of The Knight. LNA member Roland Martick has offered to reproduce on a copy machine back issues for members who want them. Please specify what dates/issues you need. Mr. Martick will send you an estimate for copying costs.

Write: Roland Martick, Goose Hole Road, Otterville. New London, New Hampshire 03257.



JOHN A. STANO/Detroit Free Press

Terry Huber, second from left, of GMF Robotics gives a tour to Gaile Dedinas, Gintautas Preidys, Stanislava Zubkaitiene and Laimute Milasauskiene.

LITHUANIAN BANKERS VISIT

BY R.G. EDMONSON
Free Press Special Writer

It wasn't the tour of Wall Street or Washington, D.C., or even the limousine that picked them up at Detroit Metro Airport.

It was a simple drive-up bank window that gave a group of Lithuanian bankers visiting Michigan their best insight into what business in the United States is all about.

"When you go to a bank in Lithuania, the only thing you have is a long line," says Zilvinas Martinkus, cashier and chief accountant for the Lithuanian

Bank of Industry and Construction, one of six national banking institutions in Lithuania.

Gintautas Preidys, vice president of the bank, says he was so impressed with the drive-up that it is one of the first changes he wants to make when he returns home to the Baltic state.

Drive-up bank windows show that "the customer is of primary importance to us. With them, it's an alien issue. They say everything they see is a bit of a miracle for them," says Gaile Dedinas, general manager of the Detroit-area branch of Kasa

Lithuanian Federal Credit Union and interpreter for the group.

Kasa Lithuanian Federal Credit Union is a New York-based institution that largely serves Lithuanian communities in four cities. The Detroit-area branch, in Southfield, has 1,000 members and \$6 million in assets.

Preidys, Martinkus and their two colleagues, Stanislava Zubkaitiene, chief loan officer, and Laimute Milasauskiene, head of the bank's new international department, are concluding a month-long visit to Michigan to study credit union and bank

operations. They are being hosted by the Michigan Credit Union League.

They have visited banks and credit unions, met with government officials in Washington and Lansing, and attended a two-day crash course in money and banking at Hillsdale College.

They also are visiting industrial facilities, such as Ford Motor Co.'s assembly plant in Wixom and GMF Robotics in Auburn Hills. This makes sense, Preidys explains, because banks in Lithuania take an active partnership in industrial activity.

As mentioned in the last issue of The Knight, there have been numerous medals issued in Lithuania in the past couple of years.

Pictured on the right is a bronze medal, 32 mm. in diameter, issued as a baptism memento.

The obverse features the historic Three Crosses monument overlooking Vilnius, which was restored last year, and the Columns of Gediminas emblem at the base. The legend reads, "PABUDOME IR KELKIMES!" meaning, "We have awakened, let us arise!"

The reverse shows a baptism stand with candle. The inscription, "KRISTO SAKRAMENTO ATMINIMAS" translates, "Recollection of Christ's Sacrament."



LITHUANIAN DEFENSE FUND CERTIFICATE



Pictured above is a 1920 Lithuanian Defense Fund certificate for \$10.00. The text translates: "Donation for the Defense of Lithuania. We hereby declare that John Viscount has donated for the defense purposes of Lithuania Ten Dollars. By this I honorably fulfill my duty to my country and extend a worthy example to other Lithuanians. This declaration is issued as evidence. Chicago's Lithuanian Defense Fund Committee, By A. J. Karuva [?], Acceptor of Contributors."

This certificate is part of the collection at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago.

LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by
V.L.G. Matelis



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Continued from last issue...

BRONZA/Bronze. (From the Italian bronzo). A generic term for the popular alloy in bars, made up of copper and tin, joining the tin with 80-95% (at least 75%) of copper foundation. At times, there is sometimes added to the copper and tin, other metals. Because of this varied composition, its qualities also change: the yellow color lightens and darkens; the bar softens and hardens, it become firmer, more easily worked, more lucid, better able to be bent, pliable or poured out. In today's technology, we find bronze used in machines, weapons, bells, in telegraph-telephone parts, medical instruments and attachments, in armature, statues and statuettes, art objects generally, as well as to strike durable small change coins. In addition to normal types of bronze mentioned, specific related metals are created: aluminum bronze (90-93% Cu 7-10% Al), and a series of similar products. The best bronze for striking medals and coins is considered to be the type set by the French in 1852 and widely used, known as Red Bronze: (95% Cu 4% Sn 1% Zn). This type of bronze was used to strike the 1936 Independent Lithuania's 1¢, 2¢ and 5¢. The 1925 issue of minor Lithuanian coinage, 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 20¢ and 50¢ denominations, were struck in England of aluminum bronze--90% Cu and 10% Al.

BRUTO SVORIS/Brut Weight (Italian brutto). a. The weight of any article together with the necessary coverings (a holder, lubricant, packing, etc); b. In numismatics, the entire weight of the coin (See Monetinis metalis).

BULIONAS/Bullion (From Dutch bulioen, billoen). "Raw" pieces of precious metal; gold, silver, platinum in acceptable form and weight for casting.

C or ¢. The symbol for cent in any nation exception Lithuania's cent, which is abbreviated as ct (without the period).

CARAT. See Karatas.

CECHINAS (Italian, zecchino). See Dukatas/Ducat.



Lietuvos Respublikos centai: 1, pats pirmasis, laikinasis, popierinis (58 x 80 mm); 2, kaldintas Anglijoje; 3, kaldintas Kauno Monetų Kalykloje (žr. lito banknotai; lito monetos).

CENTAS/Cent. (from the Latin centum). 1. a hundredth part of the national money unit; of the Litas, dollar, the Dutch guilder, Ceylon's Zanzibar's and other rupees. 2. A small coin, prepared from various bronze, copper or other metals. The cent coin of Independent Lithuania was struck: the 1925 issue, from aluminum bronze, the 1936 coin, from the so-called "red" bronze. There were about 5 million struck in 1925 in England, and in the period 1936-39 with 1936 dates, about 9,955,090 in Kaunas. 3. The Bank of Lithuania's 1 cent denomination banknote, a. temporary issue put into circulation on October 1, 1922, with the introduction of the Litas; and b. the permanent banknote issue date, November 16, 1922. In 1925, these were replaced by the aforementioned cent coins.

CENTIMETRAS/Centimeter. (abbreviated cm). 0.01 of a meter, subdivided into 10 millimeters.

CHIMERA (In Greek, chimaira) A mythological specter, created by the Greeks, with a lion's head, a goat's body and a dragon's tail, spouting flames. Occasionally, the Greeks struck it on some of their coins.

CHRONOGRAMA/Chronogram. A system of characterizing dates in a selected sentence in a coin's inscription, legend, etc. emphasizing the Roman numerals (from which the date is built up) by capital Latin letters. For example: Anno QVo PraesVL AtqVe PrinCeps IngreDItVr VILnaM; or Pro Deo aC Charo Mea pLebe traVIrensI. The capital letters in these sentences which also represent Roman numerals, in total produce the respective dates: in the first instance V (5) plus V plus V plus L (50) ;plus I (1) plus I plus I plus I plus C (100) plus D (500) plus M (1000) equal MDCCXXIX, or 1729; in the second case M plus C plus C plus L plus V plus I plus I equal MDCCCLVII or 1757.

CINAS/Tin. (symbol Sn, Latin stannum) a soft, pliable, malleable metal, a whitener for silver, List #50, atomic weight 118.70, specific gravity 7.28, melting temperature about 232°C; widely used to prepare bronze, soldering, iron vessels, to tin fish traps.

CINKAS/Zinc. (Symbol ZN), a blue white metal, List #30, atomic weight 65.38, specific gravity 7.12, melting at 419.5°C; used in bronze, the tinning of iron objects, used in printing and elsewhere.

CYRILIKA/Cyrillic. At the end of the 9th century in Bulgaria, a special alphabet was introduced into the paleo-slavic orthography, composed of Greek and the so-called Glagolic letters. The originator of this alphabet was for long attributable to the Slavic apostle St. Cyril; who in fact was the author of Cyrillic is unknown. Soon, the Cyrillic became the alphabet of the eastern Slavs (Russians), and their church literature continues to use the Cyrillic even today. Cyrillic letters were placed upon historic Russian coins; that same alphabet was used by Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas, who issued his first coin with the single word "pechat" engraved; the Cyrillic was also used by Vytautas the Great, Valdimaras, Kaributas and other dukes of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy, conciliating the inhabitants of the wide areas of eastern Slavic countries under their rule.

COLON. A. the monetary unit of Costa Rica, constituting 100 centimes and composed of copper-nickel. b. a silver coin of Salvador, of 100 centavos.

CONDOR--A gold coin of Chili and several other South American countries in the 19th and 20th centuries, valued at about ten of their respective monetary units. At first, the condor was a valuable coin (for example, in 1853, it weighed 16.4g in Columbia, and was struck of 0.900 fineness gold, but in time it deteriorated, changed, fell in price and finally disappeared altogether.

CORDOBA. The monetary unit of Nicaragua, a silver coin containing 100 centavos.

CORONADO. A billon coin of Castille and Leon, valued at 1.5 denars, begun and plentifully struck in the 13th century; and again from 1390 to 1454 it was repeated there.

CRUZEIR. The Brazilian monetary unit of 100 centavos (in 1942, it replaced the milreis of 1000 reises; an aluminum bronze coin.

Cu--the symbol for copper.

Cackis/Czacki, Tadas, Polish 1765-1813. A prominent Polish historian, numismatist and educator; authored an entire series of historical studies, a segment of which stimulated interest in Lithuanian numismatics. For example, *O Monecie Polskiej i Litewskiej*, 1800; *Zwior ciekawy 14 tablic numizmatycznych* 1844; *O rzeczy menniecznej w Polsce i na Litwie*, 1845.

LETTERS

Please consider reprinting some of your older articles for some of your younger members such as myself. I realize that only so much can be written about Lithuanian coins. I truly enjoy reading your publication.

--Lou Merkys, Lyndhurst, OH

Correction

In the Sept-Oct 1990 issue, in the article about the list of LNA members, add the following name: Michael S. Burokas #185* PA.

How are your collections coming along? We haven't had any Want or For Sale ads from our members in quite a while. Has the market or interest "dried up?" Remember: Want/For Sale ads are Free to our non-commercial LNA members.

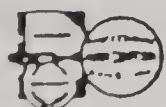
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- Y-2 5 Centai, VF \$25; Fine \$20.
- Y-3 10 Centu, VF \$25; Fine \$20.
- Y-4 20 Centu, XF \$35; VF \$30; Fine \$20.
- Y-5 50 Centu, VF \$30; Fine \$25.
- Y-6 1 Litas, XF \$30; VF \$25; Fine \$20.
- Y-7 2 Litu, VF \$35; Fine \$25.
- Y-8 5 Litai, XF \$50; VF \$40; Fine \$30

1936 Coins

- Y-9 1 Centas, AU \$18, XF \$16; VF \$12.
- Y-10 2 Centai, Brill. AU \$40; XF \$30; VF \$25.
- Y-11 5 Centai, XF \$30; VF \$25.
- Y-12 5 Litai, XF \$40; VF \$35. (Basanavicius)
- Y-13 10 Litu, AU \$100; XF 75. (Vytautas)

1938 Coins

- Y-14 10 Litu, XF \$125. (Smetona)

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MEDALS!

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1984 St. Casimir patron saint bronze proof medal showing Cathedral of Vilnius on reverse. 44 mm. diameter in plastic holder. \$15.00

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